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ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Draft programme of action for the third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination (1993-2003)

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 38/14 of 22 November 1983, the General Assembly proclaimed the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and requested the Economic and Social Council to take charge, with the help of the Secretary-General, of coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Decade and of evaluating the activities undertaken. The Council in paragraph 6 of its resolution 1985/19, requested the Secretary-General to submit annual reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 1992/13, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue with the implementation of the activities for the period 1990-1993, according the highest priority to measures to combat apartheid. In paragraph 16 of that resolution, the Council also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a draft programme of action for the third decade and to submit it to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, taking into account, inter alia, the elements of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade that had not yet been completed.

2. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the launching of a third decade (A/47/432). After considering this report, the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/77, requested the Secretary-General to submit to it a [new] draft programme of action for consideration at its forty-eighth session.

3. At its substantive session of 1993, the Economic and Social Council considered the concluding activities of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the draft programme of action for a third decade contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1993/71), and recommended that the General Assembly should proclaim a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination at its forty-eighth session.

4. The draft programme of action contained in the present report is a reworking of the previous draft in the light of the comments made during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the substantive session of 1993 of the Economic and Social Council, the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights, and the forty-fifth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. It also includes proposals put forward by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its forty-first session held in August 1992. Furthermore, it takes into account not only the results of the World Conference on Human Rights, as suggested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution E/RES/1993/8 of 27 July 1993 (para. 4), but also the suggestions of the Forum of non-governmental organizations which took place in Vienna from 10 to 12 June 1993, as a prelude to the World Conference. Lastly, the draft takes full advantage of the recommendations adopted by the international consultation of non-governmental organizations on racism, xenophobia, racial and ethnic intolerance and conflicts, which was held from 15 to 17 September in Geneva (see annex to this report).

I. DEFINITIONS OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE THIRD DECADE: CONCEPTUAL AND METHODOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

5. It is suggested that the goals and objectives of the third decade be those adopted by the Assembly for the first Decade and contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) (para. 8) of 2 November 1973:

> "The ultimate goals of the Decade are to promote human rights and fundamental freedom for all, without distinction of any kind on grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, especially by eradicating racial prejudice, racism and racial discrimination; to arrest any expansion of racist policies, to eliminate the persistence of racist policies and to counteract the emergence of alliances based on mutual espousal of racism and racial discrimination; to resist any policy and practices which lead to the strengthening of the racist regimes and contribute to the sustainment of racism and racial discrimination; to identify, isolate and dispel the fallacious and mythical beliefs, policies and practices that contribute to racism and racial discrimination; and to put an end to racist regimes."

6. In response to the oft-repeated wishes of a number of delegations, 1/ and of the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 2/ a priori, the goals and objectives set out above enable better account to be taken in the draft programme of action for the third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination of existing ethnic problems and measures to put an end to them.

7. It should be pointed out, however, that opposition has been expressed to this approach, and that opposition should be explained, in order to clarify the context in which this third decade fits. It is maintained in some quarters that racism and racial discrimination are specific phenomena not to be confused with intolerance or ethnic discrimination. 3/ Racism as a biological doctrine of racial inequality is an ideology whose origins are well known:

> "While ethnocentrism is a world-wide phenomenon, probably as old as the existence of ethnic groups, racism is a European invention dating less than 300 years back. It coincided with the European explorations of other continents of the world and their encounter with peoples which differed from themselves both in appearance and in culture. Gradually, Europeans developed theories about biological links between appearance and culture." 4/

8. While it may be true that ethnocentrism and racism and the social practices deriving therefrom, cannot be confused, both serve to bolster the claims to superiority of the groups that preach those concepts and both lead to equally violent conflict. Moreover, the terms "ethnic group" and "race" remain ambiguous in that both paradigms, far from reflecting reality, fallaciously mix objective factors with subjective considerations. The objective factors have to do with the cultural or physical differences that exist between human beings, while the subjective considerations result from an attempt to classify human populations by order of rank or to rationalize their domination on the basis of those objective factors.

9. It could further be argued, in order to justify extending the scope of the objectives of the Decade to include the solution of ethnic problems, that the current form of racist ideology tends to disregard the biological dogma of the past in favour of ethnic arguments. In other words, the neo-racists, by deliberately distorting the values of cultural relativism are advocating a radical separation of human communities based on cultural differences. 5/

10. This new direction for the Decade would be in keeping with the terms of article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which defines "racial discrimination" as any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.

11. Without pressing the conceptual analysis too far, the General Assembly might be ready to agree that, despite the distinction between racism and racial discrimination on the one hand and intolerance and ethnic discrimination on the other, there are enough similarities between the two to discuss them together while retaining that distinction. If that is agreed, the title of the Decade will still need to be amended to reflect that change.

12. As one suggestion, the Assembly might envisage a decade to combat racism, racial discrimination and ethnic intolerance, or it might consider a decade to combat racism, racial discrimination and forms of intolerance based on identity.

13. The content of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade has been developed with due regard for the budgetary restraints forced on many Member States by prevailing global economic conditions. That situation requires a conservative approach to the number and type of programme of action that can be envisaged at this time. The items listed below are considered as essential components and the resources required to implement them should be allocated.

II. MEASURES FOR THE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF APARTHEID AND SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED, NON-RACIAL AND DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA

A. Action that might be taken by the General Assembly and the Security Council

14. Recently, there have been signs of change in South Africa, notably the abolition of such legal pillars of apartheid as the Group Areas Act (law on separate housing), the Land Areas Act (law on the occupation of land) and the Population Registration Act (law on categories of population). The release of political prisoners, the legalization of political parties and the beginning of negotiations on the establishment of a new political system have also contributed positively to the transformation process. Although there is reason to be hopeful that South Africa will eventually rejoin the international community, the transition period may prove to be difficult and dangerous. Fierce political competition between political parties and ethnic groups has in fact already led to bloodshed.

15. The General Assembly and the Security Council should therefore continue to keep a close watch on South Africa until a democratic regime is established in

that country. Moreover, the two bodies might consider developing a mechanism for advising and assisting the parties concerned in order to bring apartheid to an end not only in law but also in practice. Reference should be made to Security Council resolution 765 (1992) urging the South African authorities to bring an effective end to the violence and bring those responsible to justice.

16. The Assembly may also wish to continue to examine the work of the anti-apartheid bodies established by the United Nations, namely the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Group of Three and the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa. It may also wish to keep track of the relevant reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the monitoring of the dismantling of apartheid and the transition to democracy in South Africa.

B. Measures to counteract the legacy of cultural, economic and social inequality left by apartheid

17. Action will be needed to rectify the after-effects of apartheid in South Africa inasmuch as the policy of apartheid was enforced by using State power to widen the gaps between racial groups. The knowledge and experience of international human rights bodies dealing with racial discrimination could be most useful in promoting equality. Assistance to the victims of the political antagonisms resulting from the dismantling process must also be given the greatest attention and international support for them should be strengthened.

18. The Centre for Human Rights could offer South Africa technical assistance in the field of human rights during and after the transition period. Stopgap measures to counteract the economic, social and cultural inequalities bequeathed by apartheid might be considered for underprivileged groups. 6/

19. Training courses in human rights for the South African police force, military and judiciary could also be organized.

20. In addition, and in cooperation with the democratically elected South African Government, UNESCO might undertake a project to overhaul the South African education system in order to eliminate all methods and references of a racist character.

III. ACTION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

21. International action aims to mobilize all United Nations human rights bodies, Member States, the specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations in a consolidated attack on new manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia, affecting in particular minorities, ethnic groups, migrant workers, indigenous populations, nomads, immigrants and refugees.

A. Ratification and implementation of international instruments designed to combat racism and racial discrimination

22. The Assembly could consider more effective action to ensure that all States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination fulfil their reporting obligations. By the same token, nations that have still not done so should be encouraged to become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to make a declaration under article 14 thereof recognizing the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to deal with complaints from individuals. National action taken against racism and racial discrimination could be monitored and improved by requesting an expert member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to prepare a report on obstacles encountered by States parties with respect to the effective implementation of the Convention and suggestions for remedial measures.

23. Bearing in mind the fact that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is an independent body, efforts should be made to improve contacts and the exchange of information between the Committee and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Considering that the Committee and the Subcommission are concerned with similar questions, they could benefit from sharing their experience. For example, when the Committee concludes its examination of periodic reports of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, it could draw the attention of the Subcommission to situations where progress has been made in the elimination of racial discrimination or where there has been an increase in discriminatory practices. To that end, joint meetings of the Committee and the Subcommission, which have heretofore been informal in nature, should be institutionalized.

24. As a matter of priority, the General Assembly should also recommend States that have not yet done so to ratify and implement the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

B. Role of the United Nations Secretariat and the specialized agencies

25. The Assembly may wish to propose to the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat that it undertake specific activities that could be carried out by Governments and the national non-governmental organizations concerned to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March each year. Support should be sought from artists as well as religious leaders, trade unions, enterprises and political parties to sensitize the population about the evils of racism and racial discrimination.

26. The Department of Public Information might also put out posters for the third decade and informative brochures on the activities planned for the Decade. In addition, documentary films and reports, as well as radio broadcasts on the damaging effects of racism and racial discrimination should be considered.

27. In cooperation with UNESCO and the Department of Public Information, the General Assembly could support the organization of a seminar on the role of the mass media in combating or disseminating racist ideas.

28. The General Assembly could request UNESCO to expedite the preparation of teaching materials and teaching aids to promote teaching, training and educational activities against racism and racial discrimination, with particular emphasis on activities at the primary and secondary levels.

29. In cooperation with the ILO, the possibility of organizing a seminar on the role of trade unions in combating racism and racial discrimination, in employment, as well as discriminatory practices in employment could be explored.

C. Seminars and workshops

30. Reservations have been expressed regarding the usefulness of seminars and workshops in combating racism and racial discrimination. 7/ Nevertheless, the Secretariat is of the view that such meetings provide an opportunity for a useful comparison of ideas, and supply helpful guidance for the work of the United Nations. Hence the topics to be dealt with have been carefully selected, bearing in mind the proposals of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. 8/

31. The General Assembly may wish to propose the holding of seminars and workshops, which members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would be invited to audit. The seminars and workshops could be organized around the following topics and objectives:

(a) The assessment of experience gained in implementing the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and of the effectiveness of national legislation and recourse procedures available to victims of racism;

(b) The suppression of acts inciting to racial hatred and discrimination, including the outlawing of propaganda activities and of organizations engaging in them;

(c) The right to equal treatment before tribunals and other judicial institutions, including the right to reparations for damages suffered as a result of racial discrimination;

(d) The transmission of racial inequality from one generation to another, with special reference to the children of migrant workers and the appearance of new forms of segregation;

(e) Immigration and racism;

(f) The effect of continent-wide integration processes on the adoption of discriminatory legislation;

(g) Refugee flows due to ethnic conflicts or political restructuring of multi-ethnic societies in the throes of social and economic change (Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia) and their link with racism;

(h) The role played by national institutions in promoting and protecting human rights in the fight against marginal forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

32. Regional seminars on nationalism, ethno-nationalism and human rights could also lead to a better understanding of the causes of today's ethnic conflicts and, in particular, of the so-called policy of "ethnic cleansing", with a view to finding solutions for those problems.

D. Basic research and studies

33. The viability of the United Nations programme against racism and racial discrimination over the long term will depend in part on continuing research into the causes of racism and into the new manifestations of racism and racial discrimination. The General Assembly may wish to examine the importance of preparing studies on racism. The following are some aspects to be studied:

(a) Study of the application of article 2 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Such a study might assist States in exchanging information about measures taken at different levels to implement the Convention;

(b) Study of the economic factors that help to perpetuate racism and racial discrimination;

(c) Integration or preservation of cultural identity in a multiracial or multi-ethnic society;

(d) Political rights, including the participation of different racial groups in the political process and their representation in government service;

(e) Civil rights, including those relating to migration, nationality and the freedom of opinion and association;

(f) Educational measures to combat racial prejudice and discrimination and to propagate the principles of the United Nations;

(g) Studies of the social and economic costs of racism and racial discrimination;

(h) Global integration and the question of racism and the nation State;

(i) National mechanisms to combat racism and racial discrimination in the fields of immigration, employment, salaries, housing, education and the ownership of property;

(j) Ways in which racial prejudices are transmitted from one generation to another;

(k) Completion of the handbook on recourse procedures for the use of victims of racism and racial discrimination;

(l) Completion of the global study of opportunities available to the children of migrant workers to receive education in their native language.

E. Resolution of ethnic conflicts

34. The international community is currently witnessing a great many ethnic conflicts taking place on all continents. These conflicts are caused by the redrawing of old political boundaries, the struggle for control of economic resources, ethnic intolerance and ethnic hatred. It is therefore necessary, in the third decade, to consider means of resolving ethnic conflicts based on mediation and negotiation.

35. The Economic and Social Council could ask the Subcommission to develop a mechanism for the prevention of ethnic conflicts on the basis of recommendations produced by seminars, workshops or studies dealing with ethnic issues.

36. The Centre for Human Rights could develop a pilot project on intercommunal mediation and negotiation aimed at anticipating ethnic conflicts.

37. Member States are also recommended to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National, Ethnic, Religious or Linguistic Minorities and to enter into dialogue with those minorities with a view to ensuring their active involvement in efforts to resolve the problems which place them in opposition to the State in which they live.

IV. ACTION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

38. The General Assembly may wish to recommend regional organizations to cooperate closely United Nations efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination. Regional human rights organizations could mobilize public opinion in their regions against the evils inflicted by racism and racial prejudice on disadvantaged racial and ethnic groups. Those institutions could perform an important service in assisting Governments to enact national legislation against racial discrimination and promote adoption and application of international conventions. Regional human rights commissions should be called upon to give wide publicity to the basic texts relating to human rights instruments.

V. ACTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

A. General aspects

39. The most meaningful contribution that States can make to the elimination of racial discrimination is that brought about by the measures taken in their own territory. Consequently, international action in implementation of any programme for the third decade should be geared to assisting States to act effectively. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

Racial Discrimination has established norms for States to enforce and everything possible should be done to ensure that those norms are universally accepted and applied.

40. The following questions could be addressed with a view to designing rational national policies to combat racism and racial discrimination: have there been any successful national models for eliminating racism and racial prejudice that could be recommended to States, e.g., for educating children, or are there any principles of equality which could be used to combat racism directed against migrant workers, ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, etc.? What kind of affirmative action programmes are there to redress discrimination against specific groups?

41. National policies against racism and racial discrimination should particularly focus on the root causes, especially the economic and social deprivation that often underlies and exacerbates these problems, and should be instrumental in implementing solutions. The Governments of the "developed" countries should give particular attention to the links between their worsening economic situation and the increasing frequency of acts of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

B. Measures in the fields of teaching, education and culture

42. Immediate and effective measures should be taken in the fields of teaching, education, culture and the media to combat racial prejudice and to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations and among racial, ethnic and religious groups. In particular, history syllabuses and textbooks should be explicit in describing inhuman and criminal policies and practices carried out in the name of a fanatical ideology, religious bigotry or ethnic exclusivity.

43. In particular, Member States are recommended to make efforts:

(a) To promote the aim of non-discrimination in all educational programmes and policies;

(b) To give special attention to the civic education of teachers. It is essential that teachers be aware of the principles and essential content of the legal texts relating to racism and racial discrimination and of how to deal with the problem of relations between children belonging to different communities;

(c) To teach contemporary history at an early age, presenting children with an accurate account of the crimes committed by fascist and other totalitarian regimes, and more particularly of the crimes of apartheid and genocide;

(d) To ensure that curricula and textbooks reflect anti-racist principles and promote intercultural education.

C. Measures involving the mass media

44. Steps should be taken to stop the media from disseminating racial or ethnic prejudices and stereotypes and to promote the harmonious coexistence of the various groups that make up the society.

45. Member States should encourage the participation of journalists and human rights advocates from minority groups and communities in the mass media. Radio and television programmes should increase the number of broadcasts produced by and in cooperation with racial and cultural minority groups. Multicultural activities of the media should also be encouraged where they can contribute to the suppression of racism and xenophobia.

D. Measures to protect vulnerable groups and populations disadvantaged as a result of racism or racial discrimination

46. It is not unusual for indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities and migrant workers to be living in deplorable conditions as a result of discrimination and exclusion. With respect to those individuals, it is recommended that the Member States concerned review their national programmes to combat racial discrimination and its effects in order to identify and to seize opportunities to close gaps between those groups and the majority of the population, and especially to undertake housing, educational and employment programmes that have proved successful in eliminating the economic and social inequalities suffered by those groups.

47. It is also necessary to guard against a situation where the agencies responsible for maintaining law and order use excessive force in a discriminatory fashion against members of vulnerable groups. During their training, police, correctional staff and law enforcement officers should be familiarized with the social and psychological conditions of those groups in order to better understand them. It is essential that law enforcement officers take account of ethical principles and human rights standards when performing their duties.

48. States should see that law enforcement agencies provide equal protection for all social groups. Per capita budget allocations for legal protection, including police protection, should be as high for socially underprivileged groups as for other social groups.

49. Effective recourse should be available in all countries for victims of racial discrimination.

50. The Member States concerned should adopt emergency measures to put an end to continuing violations of the rights of migrant workers, refugees and displaced persons in their own countries and stateless persons.

51. Particular attention should also be given to the situation of women belonging to ethnic or racial minorities who are victims of double discrimination based on gender as well as ethnic identity.

VI. COORDINATION AND REPORTING

52. It is important to ensure absolute coordination between the many United Nations bodies dealing with one or more aspects of racism or racial discrimination. In that connection, it may be relevant to recall that in its resolution 38/14 of 22 November 1973 proclaiming the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the General Assembly charged the Economic and Social Council with coordinating the implementation of the programme and evaluating activities. The Assembly may wish to consider the following steps to strengthen the United Nations input into the third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination:

(a) The General Assembly may wish to entrust the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with the coordinator for the decade with consolidating the programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies relating to the third decade;

(b) The Secretary-General could be invited to submit a detailed annual report on all the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to combat racism and racial discrimination;

(c) A working group of the Commission on Human Rights, or other appropriate arrangements under the Commission, should be established to review decade-related activities undertaken by United Nations bodies and Member States, on the basis of the annual reports referred to above, as well as relevant studies and reports of seminars, so as to assist the Commission in formulating appropriate recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the implementation of the activities under the programme of action and the selection of priorities.

53. Furthermore, the coordinating duties of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights should be strengthened. Additional resources should be allocated to the Centre for Human Rights to this end. The specialized agencies should be encouraged to develop plans of action in their field of technical competence in keeping with the programme of action of the third decade.

54. New contacts should be made and existing ties strengthened with regional and non-governmental organizations, at the national and international levels, including ties with civil rights movements and organizations of indigenous peoples and migrant workers.

55. As a priority, an inter-agency meeting, to be attended by representatives of Member States, should be organized immediately after the proclamation of the third decade, in early 1994, with a view to planning working meetings and other activities.

56. On an annual basis, consultations between the United Nations, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations would take place to review and plan decade-related activities.

57. The Centre for Human Rights should strengthen the relationship with non-governmental organizations fighting against racism and racial discrimination

by holding regular consultations and briefings with the non-governmental organizations.

58. In addition to the annual report that he will present on all the activities undertaken to implement the programme of action for the third decade, the Secretary-General might also present an annual report on the global situation with regard to racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and ethnic intolerance. The report would be written on the basis of information compiled from the periodic reports submitted by States to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, provided by national agencies for the protection and promotion of human rights, specialized agencies of the United Nations system, regional organizations and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance to be appointed by the Commission on Human Rights and reliable information provided by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

59. Given the similarity of objectives between the third decade and the United Nations Year for Tolerance in 1995 organized under the auspices of UNESCO, the Centre for Human Rights should be fully involved in the various activities planned for the celebration. In particular, the Centre for Human Rights should play an active role in the multidisciplinary survey on the rise of intolerance and the forms of exclusion existing in the developed countries which UNESCO intends to launch. 9/

VII. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

60. Should the General Assembly approve the suggested elements of the programme of action for the third decade, without prejudice to the voluntary contributions of Member States to the Fund for the Decade, the Secretary-General would include the activities to be carried out during the decade, as well as the related resource requirements in the proposed programme budgets, which will be submitted biennially, during the decade, starting with the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Notes

1/ The delegation of Austria at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in October 1992, the delegation of the United States of America at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July 1993, the delegation of the United Kingdom, on behalf of the member States of the European Community, at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

2/ Suggestions and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination concerning the third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination dated 9 June 1993.

3/ Statement by the Permanent Representative of Turkey in the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its forty-fifth session.

4/ Study on the achievements made and obstacles encountered during the Decades to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, report by Mr. Asbjørn Eide, Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination (A/45/525, annex, para. 257). See also Racial Discrimination, study prepared by Mr. Hernán Santa Cruz, Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, United Nations publication, Sales No. F.76.XIV.2, chap. I.

5/ See report of the Secretary-General to the forty-fourth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/11), paras. 8-12.

6/ Proposal by the Austrian delegation at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, on 14 October 1992.

7/ See statement by the Deputy United States representative to the Economic and Social Council, 7 July 1993.

8/ See report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/CN.4/1993/55).

9/ See the UNESCO Programme of Action for the United Nations year for tolerance (A/48/210), para. 31.

Annex

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE THIRD DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

1. The NGO Subcommittee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Decolonization, in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights, convened an international consultation on "Racism, xenophobia, ethnic and racial intolerance and conflicts", from 15 to 17 September 1993 at Geneva. The meeting was attended by representatives of more than 40 non-governmental organizations.

2. The participants were concerned about the rising tide of racism and overtly expressed acts of xenophobia and ethnic intolerance to which the international community had responded lethargically. They agreed that economic and resource exploitation continued to be the root cause of racism. The appearance of progress in the situation in South Africa seemed to have given rise to the illusion that racism as a global phenomenon was being resolved. In the light of the fact that the Second Decade was ending without having fulfilled its goal, the participants welcomed the General Assembly's call to launch a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination. They reaffirmed the importance of their own participation in the development and implementation of the programme of action for the third decade. They similarly welcomed the appointment by the Commission on Human Rights of a special rapporteur on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and considered that non-governmental organizations should play a significant role in helping him implement his mandate. They underlined the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to the development of successful activities in which the entire United Nations system, the non-governmental organizations and all other institutions would cooperate fully, recognizing the interdependence of economic, social, cultural, political, civil and environmental factors.

2. The participants specifically called on all Governments to ratify and implement the international instruments on human rights, racism and racial discrimination, and migrant workers, and upon those who had made reservations to these instruments to withdraw them.

3. The Consultation took as its task the development of recommendations for the draft programme of action of the proposed third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination. It focused on six areas of special concern to the participants and formulated the following recommendations:

Contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia

(a) The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in the fulfilment of his mandate, should give due consideration to information received from all non-governmental organizations. He should begin his work by studying incidents that were increasing in the developed countries, as well as the theories and attitudes of racial superiority which incited them.

(b) Governments should take concrete measures against organizations and individuals propagating racist theories and carrying out violent acts.

(c) The Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with Governments, non-governmental organizations, specialized agencies, and other relevant organizations, should undertake a study on the manipulation of national sentiment for the purpose of achieving racist goals.

(d) All human rights treaty bodies in the United Nations system should request Governments to pay particular attention in their periodic reports to the phenomenon of xenophobia, including xenophobic legislation. Governments should widely disseminate their reports in their own countries.

(e) The United Nations should assess sanctions, enforcement action, peace-keeping operations, and intervention on humanitarian grounds, with special regard to racist and discriminatory connotations that such actions might have.

Economic dimensions

(f) The General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to undertake a study on racism as a factor in perpetuating economic exploitation and disparity within and among nations.

(g) Compensation should be made to victims of racism and slavery by Governments and parties responsible for these injustices.

(h) The General Assembly should encourage Member States to eradicate all negatively discriminatory economic policies based on race or cultural identity.

(i) Recognizing that the roots of racism are based in economic policies of exploitation, the General Assembly and all United Nations bodies should ensure that the new world economic order will provide international guidelines that would constitute the basis for equality in economic, social and cultural development.

Education

(j) Member States should popularize and disseminate the texts of international human rights instruments with a view to deepening understanding of human rights and the crime of racism through education.

(k) International non-governmental organizations should continue to stimulate their national affiliates to take appropriate measures, particularly in cooperation with national teachers' and student organizations, to ensure that education for the elimination of racism and all forms of racial discrimination is made an integral part of the curricula of teacher preparation courses, including for primary and secondary schools.

(l) Non-governmental organizations should, with youth and student associations, conduct regular programmes designed to eliminate racism and all forms of racial discrimination, in particular in post-secondary educational or training institutions.

(m) Non-governmental organizations in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), should

organize training seminars for elementary and high school teachers on teaching and learning about human rights and on vitally necessary anti-racist education.

(n) Non-governmental organizations should propose to national departments or ministries of education specific literature that would be incorporated in the basic manual of elementary school classes to help children develop an anti-racist and intercultural consciousness which respected differences.

(o) National departments and ministries of education should review school programmes with a view to promoting a better spirit of solidarity through the teaching of human rights and ways to combat racism, and creating awareness in schools of global issues and problems.

(p) Non-governmental organizations should cooperate in implementing educational programmes, including human rights education for all the children of the world for whom there are no schools, and for those who do not receive full basic education.

(q) Non-governmental organizations, in cooperation with the United Nations, should organize training seminar's for the mobilization and sensitization of defenders of human rights and national authorities, taking into account the provisions of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

(r) Non-governmental organizations should create networks linking teachers, persons with knowledge of specific human rights within their field of competence and youth in order to foster understanding of the necessity for personal commitments in the fight against racism and human rights violations.

(s) Non-governmental organizations should regularly provide information to teachers and to the media about human rights in general and the crimes of racism and racial discrimination, and about the activities of the United Nations system and their own activities in this field.

Media

(t) Non-governmental organizations should denounce and combat racist and ethnic bias in the media.

(u) Human rights defenders should make use of the potential of the media for promoting racial and ethnic harmony.

(v) Governments should not allow the right of free expression to be misused to incite racial hatred and violence and ethnic conflict.

(w) The Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, when dealing with humanitarian activities and assistance in relation to the principle of non-intervention, should pay particular attention to the role of the media in manipulating public opinion to accept military action and intervention on "humanitarian" grounds.

(x) UNESCO, in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights, should develop programmes for teaching human rights to journalists and students of journalism.

(y) UNESCO should establish a media prize for promoting positive images of communities' peaceful coexistence.

(z) Non-governmental organizations should encourage journalist associations and unions to develop anti-racist guidelines for reporting issues involving race relations and ethnic questions.

Coordination

(aa) In structuring the programmes of action for the third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination and the forthcoming decade of indigenous peoples, due attention should be paid to the complementarity of activities and the need for synchronization of activities.

(bb) The programmes of action for both decades should take into account the many major events that are being planned during the period by the United Nations, such as the International Conference on Population and Development, the International Year of the Family, the World Summit on Social Development, the fourth World Conference on Women, and the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. A coordination team should be established by the Centre for Human Rights, which should include officials of the Centre and specialized agency, indigenous and non-governmental organization representation, to assist in the coordination of activities in all those areas.

(cc) The Department of Public Information of the United Nations should compile and regularly update a calendar of United Nations, specialized agency and non-governmental organization events being organized in the course of the coming decade.

(dd) Non-governmental organizations, in cooperation with regional intergovernmental bodies, should organize consultations and other activities in an effort to achieve the goals set for the third decade.

(ee) The General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to undertake a study on the link between sexism and racism. This issue should be taken into account in the various seminars and other activities planned during the third decade.

Resources

(ff) Member States of the United Nations should contribute generously to the trust fund for implementing the programme of action for the third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination.

(gg) The General Assembly should consider establishing a trust fund for victims of racism and racial discrimination similar to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Torture.

(hh) The budget of the Centre for Human Rights should be increased to be commensurate with its increasing activities, in particular in the field of combating racism and racial discrimination.